



The Blue Beret

23rd August 1978

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LADIES DAY FOR SWEDCON



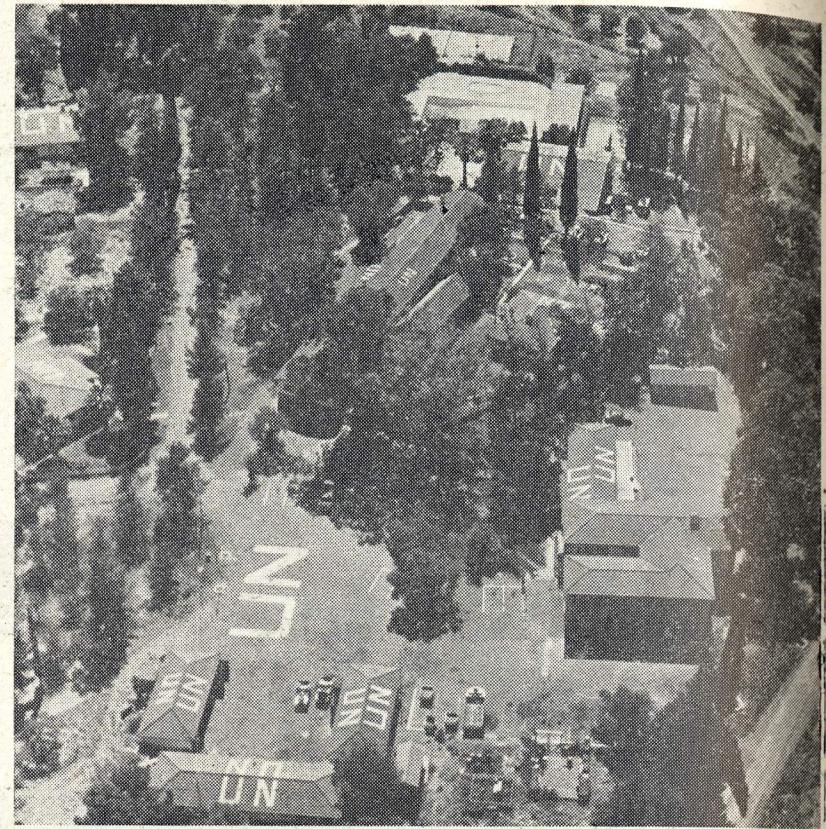
Louise Ekblom, the SWEDCON Postal Clerk for the last three months, joins the very small, select band of women entitled to wear the UNFICYP medal.

DANCON



NEWS

B-COY



CAMP SKOURIOTISSA

B Coy consists of 100 men. The company's task is to man seven OPs in the "Buffer Zone" and to patrol the zone with its recce section.

B Coy is based in SKOURIOTISSA Camp, consisting mainly of administration and accommodation buildings. The buildings were constructed by "CYPRUS MINES CORPORATION" (CMC) located close to the mines in Skouriotissa. The buildings and mines were abandoned by CMC prior to the troubles in 1974 and since occupied by the United Nations. The buildings look luxu-

rious from the outside but, once inside, you will find there is a lack of proper furniture, which it is assumed the employees of CMC took with them when the mine was closed.

The company has a tennis court and swimming pool at its disposal. B Coy has under its command a Ferret Troop of Force Reserve and is responsible for the supply and accommodation of the Troop.

The picture above shows the buildings and camp that B Coy occupies.

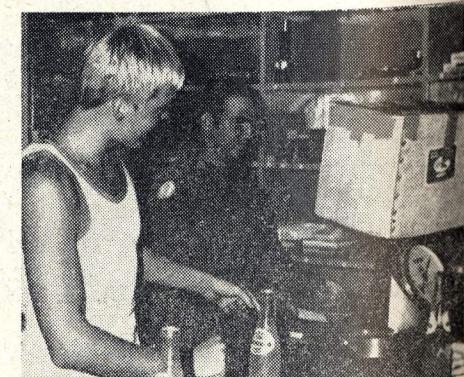


First reconnaissance section of B Coy.

The company clerk, ready to load the duplicator.



Lt John De Salis with his boy's 4 Tp 'A' Sqn IX/XII L, Force Reserve.



A picture from company welfare centre, where parcels are collected for Denmark.



A Medal for Louise

The first Swedish woman soldier in Cyprus has completed her service. After more than three months as Postal Clerk at Swedcon Miss Louise Ekblom returns home to her civilian work in Sweden. Louise has become very popular amongst the soldiers of the Swedish Contingent and during the weeks preceding her departure they showed their appreciation by entertaining her on many occasions.

At the "Swedish Night" at HQ UNFICYP the Force Commander took the opportunity to say farewell and award Louise her UN Medal in recognition of her service in the Peace-Keeping Force.

Now Miss Anne-Marie Johansson has taken over the job as Postal Clerk until November when the whole Swedish Contingent rotates.



Popular Field Artists



The musicians. From right to left: Nisse Egnström, Per Hulten, Bengt Sjöberg and Ola Ström.



The magician, Max Torello.



The visits to OPs were very welcome. Renée and Ewa show their way of making time pass quickly.



Good shooting Swedcivpol

At the HQ UNFICYP shooting competition the Britcon teams were outstanding on all weapons. Best among the Swedes were the three guys of Civpol, who took the second place on pistol. Here Force Commander congratulates the trio. From right to left: Qjell Herbertsson, Karl-Axel Öst and Torbjörn Ruthström.

VEHICLES CLEANED



Keeping up the high standard of vehicle turn out Dvr HALEY applies a coat of paint to A Troop's refrigeration vehicle.

SERVICED



The wheel nuts on a AEC 10 Ton Fuel Bowser need quite a bit of tightening. Dvr MILETIC is shown here putting in the muscle.

LOADED



"You push and I'll grunt". Cpl ROGERS lends a sympathetic look as two members of A Troop load a wagon for yet another supply run.

Focus on - THE WHEELS 8 SQN RCT IN CYPRUS

PAST

THE EARLY YEARS

China, Sudan and South Africa

Like many units of the British Army, 8 Sqn RCT, the present UNFICYP Transport Squadron, has a long and varied history. It was originally formed in 1806 as the 8th Company of the Corps of Military Artificers and as such it took part in the Crimea War in 1854-5 and also in the China War in 1860. During the China War the Company was commanded by a certain Capt G C Gordon and under him it played a part in the sacking of the Summer Palace in Peking. In 1885 Gordon, by then a General, became famous for his defence of and death at Kartoum. At the time of Gordon's death the Company was engaged in extending the Sudan Railway. It was taken off this work and formed part of the force that was despatched up the Nile to try and relieve its old commander. At the outbreak of war in South Africa the Company, now wearing the cap badge of the Royal Engineers, was moved to the Cape as part of the Advance Guard of the Expeditionary Force and was to remain there for the duration of hostilities. In 1905 the Company began its long association with Longmoor when it moved there to take part in the construction of the Woolmar Instructional Military Railway.

UP TO DATE

On the formation of the Royal Corps of Transport in July 1965 the Squadron was transferred from the Royal Engineers but retained its old number and therefore became 8th Squadron Royal Corps of Transport. The Squadron continued to operate the Longmoor Military Railway until the railway was finally closed down in October 1969. The unit was reformed as an MT squadron and first served with AMFL. At the present time the Squadron is part of 27th Logistic Support Group Regiment RCT supporting the Logistic Support Group of the United Kingdom Mobile Force and it is based in Aldershot.

TWO WORLD WARS

1914 saw the outbreak of the First World War. The Company

moved from Longmoor in August of that year and sailed to France where it remained throughout the war. 1919 saw the unit return to Longmoor and stay there for the next twenty years. It was now called the 8th Railway Construction Company. After twenty peaceful years the Company returned to France at the outbreak of the Second World War but only stayed until June 1940 when it left to take part in operations in Norway. The Company was the first railway unit to land in Normandy after the D Day landings and later crossed the Rhine into Germany. The unit remained in Germany until 1948 when it was reformed back in Longmoor under the title of the 8th Railway Squadron Royal Engineers.

The Squadron took over the role of UNFICYP Transport on 1st May and at that time it was commanded by Major John Little. In July Major Little handed over the Squadron to the present OC, Major Alex Rennie. The Squadron consists of a small headquarters and two troops with a total strength of 102 men of all ranks. The two troops are known as A and B Troops; A Troop is basically responsible for moving things whereas B Troop is responsible for moving people.

PRESENT

ROLE

The role of the UNFICYP Transport Squadron is an extensive one. It is required to provide first line transport for the Headquarters, second line transport for all the contingents and also transport for humanitarian operations, for the UN High Commission for Refugees and for the Red Cross. All this with only 102 men!

ORGANISATION

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A TROOP

The troop provides the "heavies", consisting of twenty-four tonners and fourteen specialist vehicles such as refrigeration trucks, sewage and fuel tankers. This is the troop that moves all the fuel used by the UN in the Nicosia area and provides that most important of vehicles — the "Uggy Wagon" — the sewage tanker. It is also this troop that transports the supplies to the Greek Cypriots

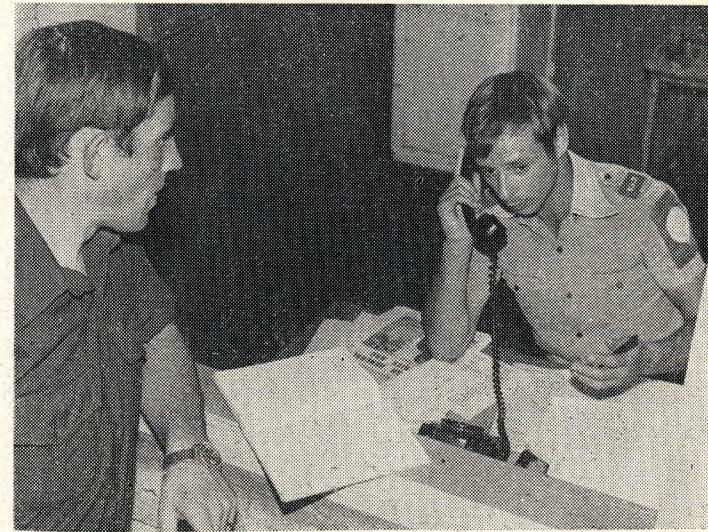
who decided to remain in the North of the island and live mainly in the Karpas. The trips to the North are not just a case of loading up, driving and unloading; from time to time some of the villagers decide to start a new life in the South and great sympathy and understanding is called for from the young drivers when they help these families move. Since they arrived the trooper has moved an incredible 4,500 tons of supplies and driven more than 124,500 miles,

B TROOP

The trooper can be found in the large hanger just inside Jubilee Camp. It is equipped with staff cars, landrovers, mini-buses, coaches and ambulances to answer the wide range of transport details it receives. Details such as taking children to school, wives to shopping centres, families to the medical and dental centres as well as to Akrotiri for air trooping flights; the ambulance service speaks for itself. The trooper also provides the staff cars and drivers for the Headquarters and a car pool for those who do not have the use of an exclusive vehicle. Since the trooper arrived its vehicles have logged an impressive total of 325,000 miles, the Force Commander's car alone accounting for 11,000 of them.

The Squadron is no stranger to Cyprus; this is its fourth tour on the island with UNFICYP. The Squadron leaves early in November but expects to be back here for its fifth tour in 1980.

MEN WORK



Cpl E Wise of B Troop deals with yet another request from someone needing transport. Also in the picture is Capt R LOVE-LOCK the B Troop commander.

PLAY



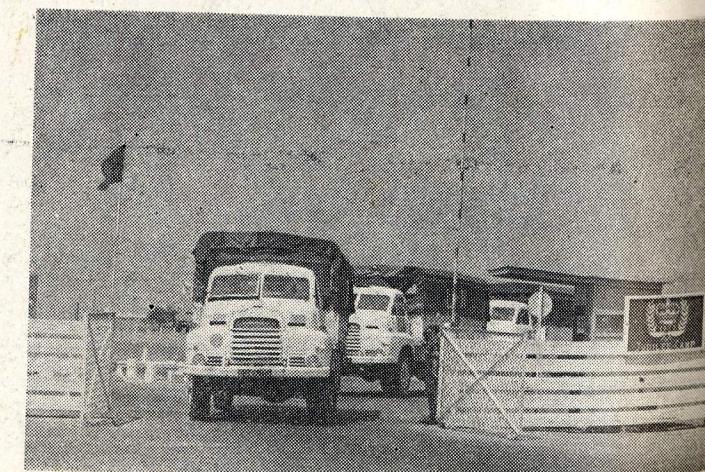
The tense looking goalie showing his best side is SSM HUNT. Needless to say 8 Sqn won the five-a-side series, they even came runners-up too.

RELAX



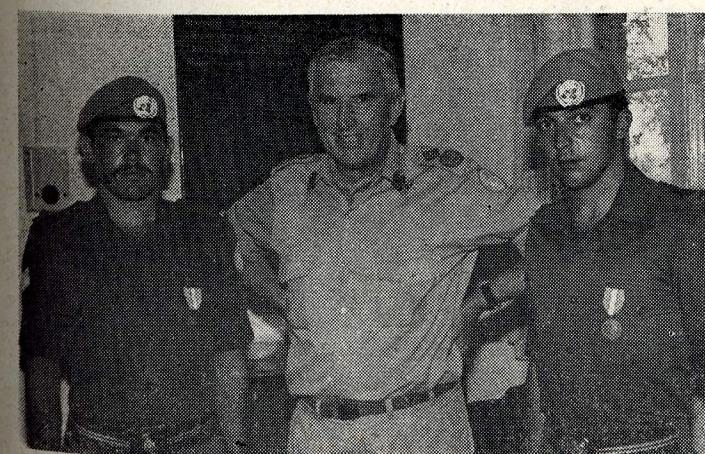
Members of 8 Sqn relax in the "Wheel 'Em Inn". Mine host behind the bar is L/Cpl BLOOMFIELD. He pulls a very tasty pint.

AND ITS ALL



"Early one morning just as the sun was rising", another convoy starts off on its journey to take supplies to Greek villagers living in the Karpas area.

ABOUT THIS



Seen here with the Force Commander having just received their UN medals. Cpl BENDALL and L/Cpl SCHULTE have clocked up 11000 miles in UNF1, the Force Commander's car, since their arrival in May.



PRIZE OF HONOUR

On Friday 18th August the Austrian Contingent Military Parade took place. As was hoped the parade and following celebrations were a success. The Battalion paraded in the presence of the Force Commander whilst the Band of the First Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers provided excellent music during the parade and March Past. On the parade a total of 107 members of the Battalion received their United Nations Medal for the Service of Peace in Cyprus.

The reception following the parade gave the Austrians an opportunity to demonstrate their hospitality and their national fare when a large selection of national delicacies was served to the guests accompanied by Austrian wine.

IN MEMORIAM

On Monday 14th August the Austrian Contingent commemorated the fourth anniversary of the death of three members of the contingent — Lt Izay (Vienna), Sgt Decombe (Burgenland) and LCpl Isak (Styria) who died in the service of peace.

During the short ceremony a wreath was laid on the memorial and Lt Col Fritz, CO AUS-

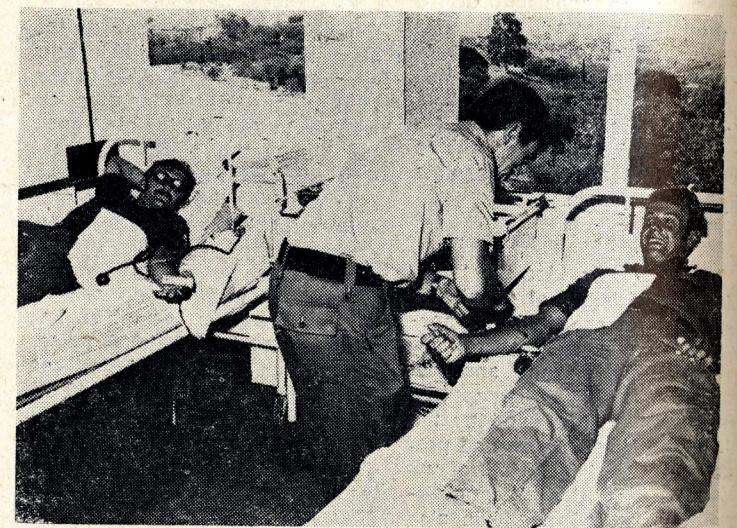
CON talked of the three soldiers' bravery and of his hope that they would never be forgotten.

The Monument located on the old Larnaca Road is now tended by the members of SWEDCON and all members of AUSCON would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks for this gesture of comradeship.

AUSCON

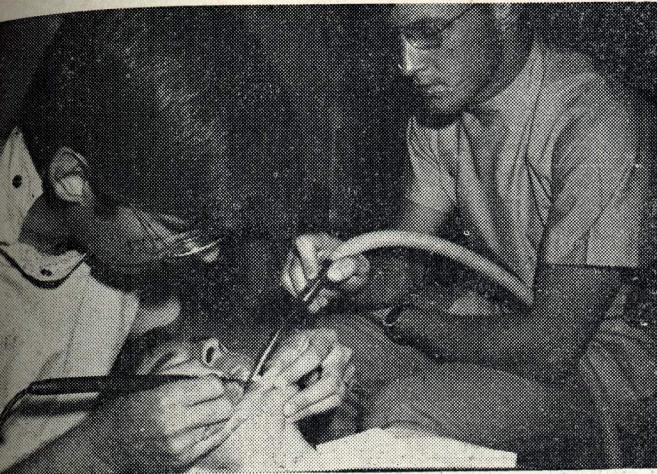
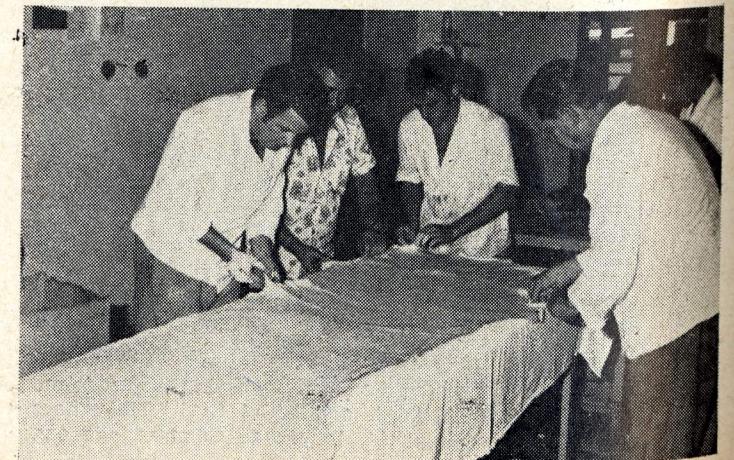


NEWS



Frequently the Austrian soldiers volunteer to be blood donors at the hospital in Dhekelia. The picture above shows the procedure is completely painless and to prove it just look at the smile on the soldier's face!

The kitchen staff are always willing to learn Austrian recipes. Here the staff can be seen busily preparing an Austrian specialty called Ausgezogener Apfelstrudel — "Stretched Applepie".



SAY AHH!!! Capt. Eric Reid and Sgt. Pierre Laperle make up two thirds of the CANCON Dental Team.



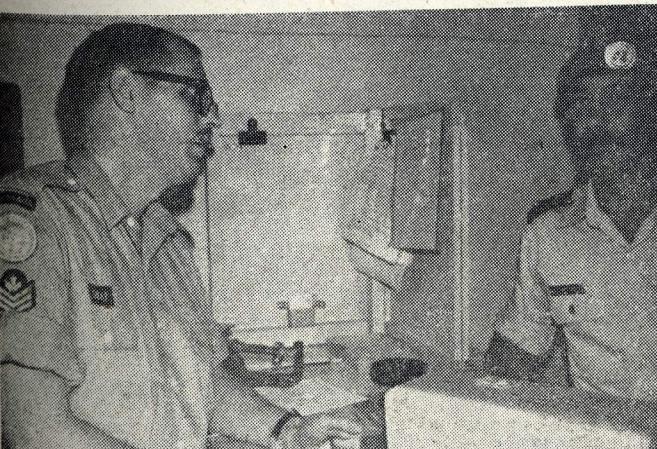
MCPL Dutchy Vandenburg of the Trade Pioneer Section works on one of the never ending requests for Pioneer Services. Members of this skilled section carry out Carpentry taskings, sign painting, electrical work, and refrigeration repairs.

"LOGISTICS COMPANY"

SERVICE SECOND TO NONE



Craftsman John Coleman of Maintenance Platoon carries out mechanical repair work on a CANCON vehicle.



Sgt. Dave Gray accepts a parcel from Inspector Clint Halloran at the CANCON Post Office. A small section but a big morale booster.

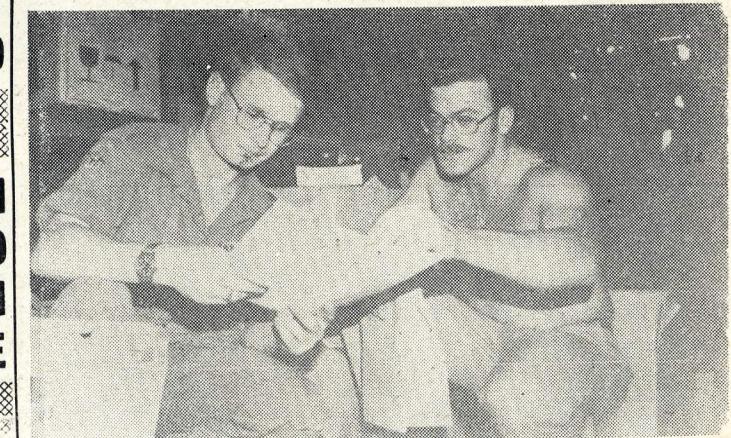
CANCON LOGISTICS COMPANY

"Service second to none" is the ultimate goal of the Canadian Contingent Logistics Company. "Second to none" is also an apt description of the soldiers who provide the administrative and logistical support for CANCON and in particular to our soldiers of the line!

The strength of Logistics Company is approximately 150. However, for administrative purposes, the Canadian members of Headquarters UNFICYP, the MP Company and 254 Signal Squadron also are considered part of the Company strength, thereby increasing it to 190. The actual roles cover a myriad of activities such as pay, transport, movements, quartermaster stores, trade pioneer services, food services, dental services, postal services, medical services, a warehouse and a national rear link communications service.

It is by carrying out these vital support activities that the soldiers of Logistics Company work hand in hand with soldiers of the line to contribute to PEACE!

CANCON NEWS



Cpl. McNeil and Cpl. Holman work in the CANCON Commissary. The commissary obtains rations and then distributes them to the various Sector 4 kitchens.

THE WINNING TEAMS



**UNFICYP
SHOOTING
COMPETITION**



**Sector 2
Sweeps
the board**

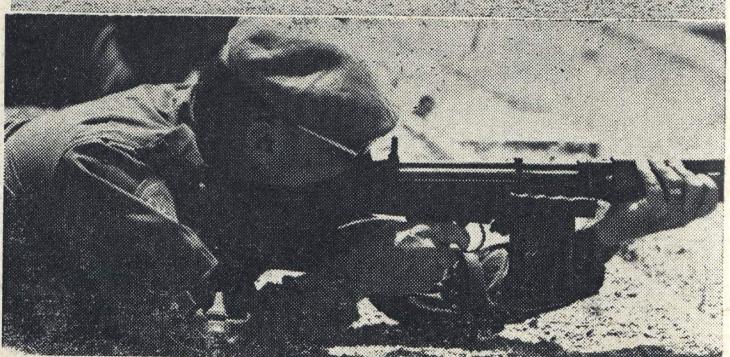
On Tuesday 8th August the marksmen of UNFICYP got together at Dhekelia ranges to shoot out the bi-annual UNFICYP Shooting Competition. This competition in fact combines three competitions; testing the marksmanship skills of the various contingents using pistols, sub machine guns and rifles. To allow maximum participation, each event was conducted using the "knockout" principle with double elimination.

The Sector 2 team, shown in the top left-hand picture, of Cpl Johnson, Lt Gorski, SSgt Barber and Fus Hartley shot their way to victory in the Rifle Competition with Maj. Rennie, Cpl Wise, Dvr. Rountree and Sgt Parkin of Support Regiment being placed second out of the eight competing teams. Sector 2 distinguished themselves a second time when the team of Maj Hall, Sgt Battey and Fus Apps, shown in the top right-hand picture, won the SMG Competition. The Sector 4 team of Lt Nordick, MCpl Bannerman, Cpl Mainville and Pte Mullin shot their way into second place in this competition. Sector 2 made it a clean sweep for the day when their pistol team of SSgt Moran, Maj Cleveland and 2 Lt Pearce, pictured above, took first place in that competition with Insp Herbertson, Insp Ost and Insp Ruthstrom of SWEDCIVPOL coming second out of the nine teams taking part.

Competition in every event was extremely keen and the winners are therefore to be particularly congratulated.

At the conclusion of the competition first and second place teams were presented with medals for their achievements by the Force Commander. They then adjourned to the canteen to celebrate their victories with a "cool one" and lunch.

SOME OF THE ACTION



TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Two weeks ending 18th August	10
Same period last year	11
Total for the year	164
Total same time last year	139

LESSON OF THE FORTNIGHT — BE SMART — STAY A SAFE DISTANCE APART